

A Summary of the Constitutional Responsibilities of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon and the Presbytery's Current Policies, Practices and Procedures in the Examination of Both Candidates for Minister of Word and Sacrament and Those Already Ordained Who are Transferring to the Presbytery

Provided in Response to the Referral to the Committee on Ministry by The Presbytery of Grand Canyon At Its June 9, 2007 Stated Meeting In The Matter Of Ordination Standards and the Overture From the Session of Kingman Presbyterian Church

The Presbytery of Grand Canyon of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a corporate expression of the church consisting of all of the churches within its district of responsibility;¹ is composed of all of the Ministers of Word and Sacrament in good standing on the rolls of the Presbytery; as many Elders from each church within its bounds as may constitutionally represent such churches; all Elders on the Presbytery Council and all Elder Chairpersons of Presbytery Permanent and Program Committees who shall be enrolled as members of the Presbytery for the tenure of their office.² Grand Canyon Presbytery is responsible for the mission and government of the church throughout its geographic district and therefore has the responsibilities and powers as set forth in Form of Government G-11.0103.

The underlying principles of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are recorded in the two-part Constitution. Part I is the *Book of Confessions*, which includes the eleven confessional statements found in Form of Government G-1.0501. The *Book of Order* forms Part II of the Constitution. The *Book of Order* includes the Form of Government, Directory for Worship and Rules of Discipline. In this *Book of Order* (1) SHALL and IS TO BE/ARE TO BE signifies practice that is mandated; (2) SHOULD signifies practice that is strongly recommended; (3) IS APPROPRIATE signifies practice that is commended as suitable; and (4) MAY signifies practice that is permissible but not required.³

There are three ways in which constitutional law is formulated within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as follows:⁴

1. Through the *Book of Order* and its established process for amendments. This process is the most difficult of the three insofar as it requires overturning the General Assembly, the assembly's approval by a majority vote, and the affirmative vote of a majority of the presbyteries.
2. Through the written opinions and decisions of the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission. Decisions of the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission are not reviewed by the General Assembly and stand as binding interpretation of the *Book of Order* until another decision supplants the original, or the General assembly approves a new authoritative interpretation. Decisions of the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission are usually narrowly drawn, dealing only with the immediate context within which the case presents itself. Therefore, new decisions derive from a new case based on different facts, or from amendments to the *Book of Order* that change the context from that of the original decision.
3. Through an interpretation of existing provisions in the *Book of Order* made by General Assembly, which is clearly identified as an authoritative interpretation. An authoritative interpretation stands only until a new authoritative interpretation supplants it. It is possible that this can happen at any time through a decision of the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission or by an overture or request for interpretation to the General Assembly, resulting in a different authoritative interpretation. Such an authoritative interpretation is adopted by a majority vote of the General Assembly.

Two of the ordination vows for ministers of Word and Sacrament, Elders and Deacons, and the commissioning vow for Commissioned Lay Pastors describe the church's commitment to the Constitution:

¹Form of Government G-11.0100 and for a description of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon Boundaries see Presbytery of Grand Canyon Bylaws and Standing Rules B-1.0300.

²Form of Government 11.0101 and Presbytery of Grand Canyon Bylaws and Standing Rules B-2.0100.

³Form of Government G-1.0500 and Preface to the *Book of Order*.

⁴Minutes 215th General Assembly (2003) Part I, p 322.

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50 Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the
51 Confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and
52 do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God? (W-4.4003 c)
53

54 Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend
55 among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and
56 Spirit? (W-4.4003 e)
57

58 In addition, governing bodies were reminded in a General Assembly Permanent Judicial Case in 2001 that they
59 do not possess a "right of conscience" that would permit them to violate mandatory provisions of the
60 Constitution.⁵
61

62 The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall be governed by representative bodies composed of presbyters, both
63 Elders and Ministers of Word and Sacrament. These governing bodies shall be called session, presbytery, synod
64 and General Assembly.⁶ Within the PC(USA) Constitution it has been assumed that the governing bodies
65 beyond the session will delegate particular aspects of their task to councils, commissions and committees. The
66 structures specified in the Presbytery are: A Council for the coordination of mission and program (G-11.0103v);
67 Committee on Representation (G-9.0105, G-11.0302); Committee on Ministry (G-11.0500, G-14.0532);
68 Committee on Preparation for Ministry (G-14.0401); Nominating Committee (G-9.0800, G-11.0103w) and
69 Permanent Judicial Commission (D-5.000).⁷
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71 The presbytery, with respect to the membership of Ministers of Word and Sacrament, has the following
72 responsibilities: (1) to enter into covenant relationship with those preparing to become Ministers of Word and
73 Sacrament by enrolling them as Inquirers, to receive Inquirers as Candidates, and to certify Candidates as ready
74 for examination for ordination; (2) to ordain, receive, dismiss, install, remove, and discipline Ministers, to plan
75 for the integration of new Ministers into the life and work of presbytery, to establish minimum compensation
76 and benefit requirements for all pastoral calls; and (3) to establish the pastoral relationship and to dissolve it at
77 the request of one or both of the parties, or when it finds that the church's mission under the Word imperatively
78 demands it.⁸
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80 The presbytery, through its appropriate committee, shall examine each Minister or Candidate who seeks
81 membership in it on his or her Christian faith and views in theology, the sacraments, and the government of this
82 church. Every Minister seeking membership in a presbytery shall have a call to a pastoral relation within the
83 presbytery, or from a governing body or agency as defined in G-11.0410, or be entering a work defined in G-
84 11.0411, for which the receiving presbytery shall give its permission, or shall be honorably retired as defined in
85 G-11.0412.⁹
86

87 To carry out its responsibility with respect to the membership of Ministers of Word and Sacrament the
88 Presbytery of Grand Canyon has established a Committee on Preparation for Ministry and a Committee on
89 Ministry as provided for in Form of Government G-9.0901 and G-9.0902 with the responsibility of these
90 committees set forth in the Bylaws and Standing Rules of the presbytery as follows:
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92 There shall be a Committee on Preparation for Ministry which shall have fifteen (15) members.
93 Responsibilities of the committee shall include, but not be limited to giving guidance to and have
94 oversight of applicants and candidates for church vocations.¹⁰
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⁵ GAPJC *Londonderry v. Presbytery of Northern New England* (Remedial Case 213-2, 2001).

⁶ Form of Government G-9.0101.

⁷ Form of Government G-9.0901 Summary of Structures and G-9.0902 Structures Listed.

⁸ Form of Government G-11.0103 (l), (n), (o).

⁹ Form of Government G-11.0402.

¹⁰ Presbytery of Grand Canyon Bylaws and Standing Rules B-6.0240.

96 There shall be a Committee on Ministry which shall have twenty-seven (27) members with
97 responsibilities as outlined in Form of Government G-11.0500.¹¹
98

99 A presbytery shall determine the Ministers of the Word and Sacrament who shall be its continuing members.
100 In making this determination the presbytery shall be guided by written criteria developed by the presbytery for
101 validation of Ministers within its bounds. These criteria shall be based upon the description of the nature of
102 ordained office found in G-6.0100 and G-6.0200 and the standards found in found G-11.0403 (a) through (e).¹²
103 The Presbytery of Grand Canyon, upon recommendation of the Committee on Ministry, approved a revised
104 Continuing Membership and Validation of Ministry Policy on January 21, 2006 which is included in the
105 *Committee on Ministry Handbook (2007)*, which may be found on the Presbytery of Grand Canyon Website at
106 http://www.pbygrandcanyon.org/pdfs/comm_communications/com_handbook2007.pdf, and is on pages 82-86
107 under the “Policies and Guidelines” section of the handbook.
108

109 The following is a summary of the oversight and examination process for Inquirers and Candidates for Minister
110 of Word and Sacrament followed by the Committee on Preparation for Ministry acting on behalf of the
111 Presbytery of Grand Canyon:
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- 113 1. When a person perceives a call to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament that person first meets with
114 the session of their church to be examined regarding their sense of call and their motivation for
115 pursuing that call. The person must have been a member of the congregation for at least six months.
116
- 117 2. If the session recommends that the person become an Inquirer they vote in the affirmative and
118 commend that person to CPM. CPM then examines the potential Inquirer regarding their faith, their
119 spiritual journey, their sense of call and their plans for exploring that call. If CPM approves of
120 enrolling the person as an Inquirer that decision is conveyed to the presbytery at their next regular
121 meeting. The Inquirer signs a covenant agreement agreeing to abide by supervision of CPM and
122 comply with their requests for information. The Inquirer is assigned a CPM liaison and a session
123 liaison and remains a member of his or her local church during both the Inquirer and Candidacy
124 phases and as such is still under the supervision of the session of that church in addition to CPM.
125
- 126 3. The CPM holds annual consultations with every Inquirer and Candidate. During these annual
127 consultations the Inquirer/Candidate is questioned concerning their academic preparation for their
128 spiritual growth, their sense of call, and their interpersonal relationships.
129
- 130 4. By the end of the Inquirer phase each student shall have successfully completed the Bible Content
131 examination and shall have completed a psychological evaluation implemented by a trained
132 professional. Each Inquirer shall make application to their session to proceed to the Candidacy
133 stage and must have the session’s approval to do so. Following session approval the Inquirer shall
134 be examined by the CPM and shall provide: a statement of his or her understanding of Christian
135 vocation in the Reformed tradition, a personal statement of faith which incorporates an
136 understanding of the Reformed tradition, an analysis of at least one concept from the personal faith
137 statement, a statement of what it means to be Presbyterian, a statement of self-understanding, and a
138 statement of their understanding of the duties of Ministers of Word and Sacrament and awareness of
139 their own particular gifts for ordained ministry. The Inquirer shall be examined by CPM regarding
140 these areas.
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- 142 5. If the CPM approves the transition from Inquirer to Candidate, they will recommend the same to the
143 presbytery at its next available meeting. The Inquirer will present to the presbytery a statement of
144 their spiritual journey, their service to the church and their sense of call. They are then examined
145 by the presbytery on these areas only. If the presbytery votes in the affirmative, the one year
146 (minimum) period of candidacy begins on that date.

¹¹ Presbytery of Grand Canyon Bylaws and Standing Rules B-6.0240.

¹² Form of Government G-11.0403.

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6. During the candidacy period it is expected that the Candidate will successfully conclude seminary education, successfully complete the other four Ordination Examinations (Exegesis, Theology, Worship and Sacraments, and Polity), and successfully complete at least one segment of field education or supervised ministry. Upon successful fulfillment of all of these goals the candidate appears before the CPM again and produces a statement of faith, an exegesis of a passage of Scripture, a sermon and a draft Personnel Information Form (PIF). The CPM will evaluate the exegesis and sermon (or will ask a task force of CPM to do so) and will examine the Candidate's statement of faith and assess their readiness for ordained ministry. If all is found to be in order the Candidate is given permission to search for a call and circulate their PIF with this permission reported to the presbytery at its next regular meeting.
7. When a call has been issued to a Candidate for Ministry of Word and Sacrament, that Candidate will present a statement of faith to the presbytery of call and will be examined for ordination.
8. When a Candidate for Ministry of Word and Sacrament who has been under care of a CPM in another presbytery is to be examined for ordination by Grand Canyon Presbytery, the CPM shall meet with that Candidate prior to the presbytery meeting and shall review their statement of faith to see that it is in order.
9. When a Minister of Word and Sacrament from a denomination not in correspondence with the PC(USA) wishes to accept a call in Grand Canyon Presbytery they shall meet with the CPM and be examined by CPM. They shall be assigned a committee liaison. Ordinarily they shall be required to complete the Ordination Exams and produce a statement of faith.
10. When an elder wishes to become a Commissioned Lay Pastor (CLP) they shall meet first with a subcommittee made up of members of CPM and COM and be examined as to their sense of call, their faith, and their motives for becoming a CLP. If the subcommittee approves their application they are then examined by the CPM. If the CPM approves their application then a program of preparation will be developed for that CLP candidate. Upon completion of the training the CLP candidate will meet with the subcommittee again and, if approved, will meet with the CPM. If CPM finds the training and preparation to be in order the Candidate will then be referred to COM for further examination. The purpose of the COM examination is to evaluate the Candidate and the specific call for that commissioned ministry.

The COM has developed a *Committee on Ministry Handbook* that sets forth its responsibilities as found in Form of Government G-11.0500 and the procedures it will follow in completing its responsibilities on behalf of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon. The most recent edition of the *Committee on Ministry Handbook* revised January 2007 has been posted on the Presbytery of Grand Canyon Website as a Resource Document at http://www.pbygrandcanyon.org/pdfs/comm_communications/com_handbook2007.pdf.

The following is a summary of the oversight and examination process of the Committee on Ministry under its delegated authority to act on behalf of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon and report such actions at the next regular presbytery meeting:¹³

1. Appoints moderators of sessions when necessary;
2. Recruits, trains and deploys liaison persons to work with Pastor Nominating Committees;
3. Receives and screens for approval Church Information Forms from Pastor Nominating Committees;
4. Prescreens and presents Personal Information Forms to Pastor Nominating Committees when requested;
5. Interviews potential Candidates before a Pastor Nominating Committee arranges for personal interview;

¹³ Presbytery of Grand Canyon Bylaws and Standing Rules B-6.0210.

- 199 6. Interviews all who seek to transfer membership to the Presbytery or seek permission to labor within
200 the bounds of the presbytery;
- 201 7. Exercises oversight of churches without pastors in accord with the provisions of Form of
202 Government G-11.0502;
- 203 8. Approves Pastoral Calls issued by churches of this presbytery when found in order;
- 204 9. Approves and presents Pastoral Calls for services of the members of this presbytery issued by
205 another presbytery;
- 206 10. Approves the dissolution of the pastoral relationship in cases where the congregation and pastor
207 concur;
- 208 11. Approves the transfer of membership of ministers of this presbytery to another presbytery upon
209 request of the member and upon reception by the other presbytery;
- 210 12. Grants a Minister from another presbytery, having a call or contract within the bounds of this
211 presbytery, permission to labor within this presbytery's bounds and permission to moderate the
212 session where appropriate until the Minister is received into the membership of this presbytery;
- 213 13. Approves administrative commissions for the purpose of ordination and/or installation;
- 214 14. Approves parish associate agreements between sessions and members of this presbytery; and
- 215 15. Approves requests for honorable retirement.

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217 The COM, in its work described above, follows the Pastor Search Process which is included in pages 32-33 of
218 Chapter VI "Care of the Congregation during a Pastoral Vacancy" of the *Committee on Ministry Handbook*
219 (2007), available at http://www.pbygrandcanyon.org/pdfs/comm_communications/com_handbook2007.pdf.

220
221 The COM, when it interviews potential candidates for pastor positions in churches, follows the interview
222 procedures as outlined in Chapter IX "Interview Procedures" of the *Committee on Ministry Handbook* (2007)
223 (http://www.pbygrandcanyon.org/pdfs/comm_communications/com_handbook2007.pdf) and may be found on
224 pages 58-59 of the handbook.

225
226 With respect to the membership of Ministers of Word and Sacrament, the Presbytery of Grand Canyon itself has
227 a role in the examination of Inquirers, Candidates, and previously ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament
228 seeking membership in the Presbytery of Grand Canyon on the floor of Presbytery as set forth below:

- 229
- 230 1. Presbytery has a role in the examination of Inquirers who desire to become Candidates; the examination
231 is limited (per G-14.0305e)¹⁴ to examining "with respect to his or her Christian faith, forms of Christian
232 service undertaken, and motives for seeking the ministry."
 - 233
 - 234 2. This means that examinations of a direct theological nature, specific interpretations of a Scripture text,
235 or of a Confessional statement are out of order. Any questions regarding "Christian Faith" are limited to
236 the person's experience and understanding of faith thus far in their life; questions of forms of service
237 and motivations are in order. Such questions are encouraged. The Moderator, the Stated Clerk, the
238 Chairperson of the CPM, or any elders or minister present may raise a question as to the appropriateness
239 of a particular question.
 - 240
 - 241 3. Presbytery has a role in the examination of Candidates who desire to become ordained Ministers of
242 Word and Sacrament. In presenting themselves for examination for ordination the candidate provides
243 the presbytery with a written Statement of Faith which is included with call to the meeting to which they
244 are to be examined.
 - 245
 - 246 4. The examination for ordination is large and open. Per G-14.0482:¹⁵

¹⁴ The provisions of Form of Government G-14.0305e found in the 2005-2007 *Book of Order* has been replaced in the 2007-2009 *Book of Order* in the revised Chapter 14, approved by the 217th General Assembly (2006) and by a majority of the presbyteries, and will be covered in an Advisory Handbook (G-14.0402) developed and updated as needed by the appropriate General Assembly agencies in consultation with the Office of the General Assembly, which the presbytery may adopt or modify to establish its own mandatory procedures, (G-9.0405).

247 The candidate shall appear before the presbytery in which he or she shall make a brief statement of
248 personal faith and of commitment to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament...The
249 presbytery...having heard the candidate and his or her sermon preached before the presbytery or a
250 committee thereof (G-14.0305j(6)), and having received the recommendation of its responsible
251 committee (G-11.0402), shall conduct any further examination of his or her Christian faith and
252 views in theology, the Bible, the Sacraments, and the government of the church as it deems
253 necessary.
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- 255 5. Five areas are lifted up as useful areas for examination: Christian faith, views in theology, the Bible, the
256 Sacraments, and the government of the church. The COM always examines Candidates in these areas.
257 Questions from Presbyters in such areas are encouraged.
258
- 259 6. Presbytery has a role in the examination of previously ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament
260 seeking membership in the Presbytery of Grand Canyon in which the five areas for examination;
261 Christian faith, views in theology, the Bible, the Sacraments, and the government of the church (listed in
262 #5 above) are lifted up.¹⁶
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- 264 7. During the course of the examination, either before the COM, CPM or the Presbytery, Candidates and
265 those previously ordained who are seeking presbytery membership are free to inform the body if they
266 have a scruple in any particular area. Presbyters are also free to ask Candidates if they have any
267 scruples they would like to register. The form of the question may vary. For example, a Presbyter could
268 ask if a Candidate or previously ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament has any reservations about a
269 particular theological doctrine, biblical reference, or a polity matter in the Constitution. Such questions
270 have always been in order, and the whole church has been recently reminded of this in the Report of the
271 Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity and Purity; specifically, in Amended Recommendation 5 of
272 that report, we read the following:
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- 274 a. The *Book of Confessions* and the Form of Government of the *Book of Order* set forth the
275 scriptural and constitutional standards for ordination and installation.
276
 - 277 b. These standards are determined by the whole church, after the careful study of Scripture and
278 theology, solely by the constitutional process of approval by the General Assembly with the
279 approval of the presbyteries. These standards may be interpreted by the General Assembly and
280 its Permanent Judicial Commission.
281
 - 282 c. Ordaining and installing bodies, acting as corporate expressions of the church, have the
283 responsibility to determine their membership by applying these standards to those elected to
284 office. These determinations include: (1) Whether a candidate being examined for ordination
285 and/or installation as elder, deacon, or minister of Word and Sacrament has departed from
286 scriptural and constitutional standards for fitness for office, (2) Whether any departure
287 constitutes a failure to adhere to the essentials of Reformed faith and polity under G-6.0108 of
288 the *Book of Order*, thus barring the candidate from ordination and/or installation.
289
 - 290 d. Whether the examination and ordination and installation decision comply with the Constitution
291 of the PC(USA), and whether the ordaining/installing body has conducted its examination
292 reasonably, responsibly, prayerfully, and deliberately in deciding to ordain a candidate for
293 church office is subject to review by higher governing bodies.
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¹⁵ The provisions of the Form of Government G-14.0482 of the 2007-2009 *Book of Order* were previously found in Form of Government G-14.0402a of the 2005-2007 *Book of Order*.

¹⁶ Form of Government G-11.0402 Minister Seeking Membership; the Presbytery of Grand Canyon has not delegated the authority to receive into membership ministers of Word and Sacrament from other presbyteries seeking membership to an appropriate committee rather it has retained this authority.

295 e. All parties should endeavor to outdo one another in honoring one another's decisions, according
296 the presumption of wisdom to ordaining/installing bodies in examining candidates and to the
297 General Assembly, with presbyteries' approval, in setting standards.¹⁷
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299 8. Two recent General Assembly Permanent Judicial cases have raised issues regarding the examination of
300 Candidates and previously ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament. The following is copied from
301 the "head notes" sections of two PJC decisions, and are instructive to Presbyteries, COM and CPM in
302 their examination of Candidates, Inquirers and previously ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament.
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304 a. **"Hart case"** From 2003, Presbytery of San Joaquin v. Presbytery of the Redwoods and Hart, et
305 al. Presbytery of the Redwoods Remedial Case 215-8, Church Polity (03) pp. 277-281,
306 Remedial Case 215-8:
307

308 i. Standard for Ordination - The Constitution, G-6.0106b, specifies that a person who
309 refuses to repent of any self-acknowledged practice that the confessions call sin is not
310 eligible for ordination or installation. Sexual orientation, therefore, alone is insufficient
311 to make a person ineligible for ordination or installation.
312

313 ii. Governing body standard for inquiry - If a person does not self-acknowledge a practice
314 that the confessions call sin, then a governing body has a positive obligation to make
315 further inquiry only if it has direct and specific knowledge that such person is in
316 violation of the ordination and installation standards of the Constitution. A hunch,
317 gossip or stereotype is not a sufficient ground to compel a governing body to make
318 further inquiry. Reasonable grounds must include factual allegations of how, when,
319 where, and under what circumstances the individual was self-acknowledging a practice
320 which the Confessions call sin.
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322 b. **"Weir case"** 2002, Wier v. Session, Second PC, Fort Lauderdale, FL, Remedial Case 214-5,
323 Church Polity (04), p. 339 Ronald L. Wier Complainant/Appellant v. Session, Second
324 Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale, FL Respondent/Appellee:
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326 i. Specificity of Pleading: When a complaint alleges violation of a constitutional standard
327 that may have extreme consequences to a person's reputation, career, or friendships, a
328 greater degree of pleading specificity is required. A complaint making such allegations
329 must assert factual allegations of how, when, where, and under what circumstances the
330 person was self-acknowledging a practice which the Confessions call a sin.
331

332 ii. Self-acknowledgment: The plain language of the Constitution clearly states that
333 disqualified persons must have self-acknowledged the proscribed sin. Self-
334 acknowledgment may come in many forms. In whatever form it may take, self-
335 acknowledgment must be plain, palpable, and obvious and details of this must be
336 alleged in the complaint.
337

338 iii. Examination of Candidates for Ordination and/or Installation: The ordaining and
339 installing governing body is in the best position to determine whether self-
340 acknowledgment is plain, palpable, and obvious, based on its knowledge of the life and
341 character of the candidate. If the governing body has reasonable cause for inquiry based
342 on its knowledge of the life and character of the candidate, it has the positive obligation
343 to make due inquiry and uphold all the standards for ordination and installation.
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¹⁷ Authoritative Interpretation of Form of Government G-6.0108 (Amended Recommendation #5 of the Report of the Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity and Purity) approved by the 217th General Assembly (2006).

345 As outlined earlier the Presbytery of Grand Canyon itself has a role in the examination of Ministers of Word and
346 Sacrament on the floor of presbytery who have previously been ordained and are requesting membership in the
347 presbytery as result of receiving a pastoral call or contract to a position which has previously been approved by
348 COM in accordance with the Continuing Membership and Validation of Ministry Policy or are honorably
349 retired. The process of the floor examination for a previously ordained minister of Word and Sacrament that has
350 usually taken place heretofore is outlined below:

- 351
352 1. A brief biographical sketch outlining the date and place of ordination, the educational background,
353 and pastoral/ministerial experience of the Minister seeking membership is included in the packet of
354 material distributed at the presbytery meeting where the Minister is to be examined.
355
- 356 2. In presenting the Minister for membership the Chairperson of the Committee on Ministry outlines
357 that the Minister has previously been interviewed and approved for membership by the COM, which
358 approval action was either previously reported to the presbytery or is included in the Consent
359 Agenda Report of the COM included with the call to this current meeting.
360
- 361 3. The Chairperson then asks the Minister seeking membership to share verbally information about
362 them including reflecting on some specific aspects of their previous ministerial experience.
363
- 364 4. The Moderator of the Presbytery then opens the floor to questions of the Minister seeking
365 membership by presbyters. (Note: The questioning, technically, may take the same form as
366 described above for the examination for ordination. However the questioning usually is of short
367 duration and usually does not involve questions related to the minister's Christian faith, views in
368 theology, the Bible, the Sacraments, and the government of the church.)
369
- 370 5. After the opportunity for questions has ended the COM Chairperson moves that the Minister
371 seeking membership be approved for membership and if the presbytery votes in the affirmative the
372 Minister is received into membership and their previous membership in another presbytery
373 transferred to the Presbytery of Grand Canyon.
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